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**Decreased photosynthesis and growth with reduced respiration in the model
diatom *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* grown under elevated CO₂ over 1800
generations**

Running head: diatom in elevated CO₂ over 1800 generations

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Primary Research Article

Abstract

Studies on the long-term responses of marine phytoplankton to ongoing ocean acidification (OA) are appearing rapidly in the literature. However, only a few of these have investigated diatoms, which is disproportionate to their contribution to global primary production. Here we show that a population of the model diatom *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*, after growing under elevated CO₂ (1000 µatm, HCL, pH_T: 7.70) for 1860 generations, showed significant differences in photosynthesis and growth from a population maintained in ambient CO₂ and then transferred to elevated CO₂ for 20 generations (HC). The HCL population had lower mitochondrial respiration, than did the control population maintained in ambient CO₂ (400 µatm, LCL, pH_T: 8.02) for 1860 generations. Although the cells had higher respiratory carbon loss within 20 generations under the elevated CO₂, being consistent to previous findings, they down-regulated their respiration to sustain their growth in longer duration under the OA condition. Responses of phytoplankton to OA may depend on the timescale for which they are exposed due to fluctuations in physiological traits over time. This study provides the first evidence that populations of the model species, *P. tricornutum*, differ phenotypically from each other after having been grown for differing spans of time under OA conditions, suggesting that long-term changes should be measured to understand responses of primary producers to OA, especially in waters with diatom-dominated phytoplankton assemblages.

1 **Introduction**

2 Diatoms play a critical role in the carbon cycle as they are responsible for about 20%
3 of global primary production (Field *et al.*, 1998). They contribute about 35% to the
4 primary productivity of the oligotrophic oceans and nearly 75% to that of the coastal
5 zone and other nutrient-rich systems (Nelson *et al.*, 1995). In addition, due to the
6 presence of a silicon frustule, diatoms are key species influencing the
7 biogeochemical cycle of silicon (Si); indeed, every atom of silicon delivered to the
8 ocean is incorporated into a diatom cell wall on average 39 times before being
9 removed to the seabed (Treguer *et al.*, 1995). Ongoing global climate changes, such
10 as ocean acidification (OA) as a consequence of increasing anthropogenic CO₂
11 release (Sabine *et al.*, 2004; Orr *et al.*, 2005), are suggested to have consequences for
12 marine plankton (Doney *et al.*, 2009; Riebesell & Tortell, 2011) and carbon and
13 elemental cycles, which will feed back to global climate.

14 Positive, negative, and even neutral effects of OA on diatoms have been
15 documented (Gao & Campbell, 2014). On one hand, OA may enhance growth and
16 photosynthesis, and down-regulate the CO₂ concentrating mechanisms (CCMs); on
17 the other hand, it can increase carbon loss mechanisms, including respiration and
18 photorespiration (Gao *et al.*, 2012b), though decreased mitochondrial respiration has
19 also been reported (Hennon *et al.*, 2014). Moreover, the decreased seawater pH
20 induced by increasing dissolved CO₂ from the atmosphere may impose a higher
21 energy cost for phytoplankton cells to maintain intracellular acid-base homeostasis
22 (Raven, 2011) and may also influence nutrient availabilities and toxicities (Millero,

1 2009). OA can also influence the effects of other environmental factors on
2 phytoplankton cells. For example, photoinhibition under high light or in the presence
3 of UV radiation is greater under OA conditions (Sobrino *et al.*, 2008; Wu *et al.*, 2010;
4 Chen & Gao, 2011; Sobrino *et al.*, 2014). Nevertheless, OA may mitigate the
5 deleterious effects of UVB, as shown by Li *et al.* (2012b) for a diatom.
6 Species-specific (Langer *et al.*, 2006; Kroeker *et al.*, 2010), and even strain-specific
7 (Langer *et al.*, 2009), responses and the impact of other factors, such as light
8 intensity (Gao *et al.*, 2012b), nutrient concentration (Verspagen *et al.*, 2014), and
9 temperature (Fu *et al.*, 2007; Feng *et al.*, 2009), may partially explain the lack of
10 conformity in the reported ecological and physiological effects of OA. Whether
11 phytoplankton cells will benefit from increased availability of CO₂ with progressive
12 OA thus depends on the balance of effects under multiple stressors in different
13 regions (Riebesell & Gattuso, 2015).

14 Most prior studies have been based on short-term experiments. Limited
15 knowledge has thus been documented on long-term responses of marine
16 phytoplankton to OA. Several recent reviews emphasize the importance of long-term
17 exposure research as one of the major directions for future OA studies (Gao *et al.*,
18 2012a; Reusch & Boyd, 2013; Gao & Campbell, 2014; Sunday *et al.*, 2014;
19 Riebesell & Gattuso, 2015). Since the earliest publication of evolutionary responses
20 to elevated CO₂, based on a green alga (Collins & Bell, 2004), the literature in this
21 field has increased rapidly, mainly focusing on coccolithophore species (Müller *et al.*,
22 2010; Lohbeck *et al.*, 2012; Benner *et al.*, 2013; Jin *et al.*, 2013; Lohbeck *et al.*,

2013; Lohbeck *et al.*, 2014). At this time, only a few studies have investigated responses of diatoms to OA over long periods (Crawford *et al.*, 2011; Low-Décarie *et al.*, 2013; Tatters *et al.*, 2013). In the present study, we grew a model species of diatom, *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*, for 1860 generations under ambient and elevated CO₂ conditions along with controlled carbonate chemistry, and investigated growth and physiological differences between short- and long-term CO₂ exposure populations.

8

9 **Materials and methods**

10 Culture conditions

11 *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* (CCMA 106) was originally isolated from the South
12 China Sea (SCS) in 2004 and obtained from the Center for Collections of Marine
13 Algae (CCMA) of the State Key Laboratory of Marine Environmental Science,
14 Xiamen University. Cells were incubated in autoclaved natural seawater collected
15 from the coastal region of Quanzhou, China (118.60°E, 24.52°N). Nutrients were
16 added according to the recipe for Aquil medium (Morel *et al.*, 1979). The incubation
17 light intensity was 150 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, provided by cool white fluorescent
18 tubes. Cultures were maintained at 20 °C with a 12h : 12h light dark cycle.
19 Polycarbonate bottles used for culturing cells were placed in one incubator. They
20 were manually shaken once a day and their positions relative to the light source were
21 randomly changed, so that cells were not systematically exposed to different levels
22 of illumination. The pH was measured before and after dilution by a pH meter

1 (Orion 2 STAR, Thermo Scientific) calibrated with standard National Bureau of
2 Standards (NBS) buffers. CO₂ partial pressure was measured by a CO₂ detector
3 (M170, Vaisala Oyj). Carbonate chemistry parameters were calculated by CO2SYS
4 software using pH and pCO₂. Values of pH and pCO₂ were measured periodically
5 (but not at every dilution due to logistical difficulties) during the long-term exposure.
6 Cell density was maintained below 1.2×10^5 per ml (exponential growth phase) and
7 the carbonate chemistry remained stable over the culture period, with pH variations
8 < 0.08 units. Carbonate chemistry of media at the end of experiment are shown in
9 Table S1.

10

11 Experimental set-up

12 For the long-term experiment, Aquil medium was pre-aerated either with ambient
13 outdoor air (400 µatm pCO₂) for the long-term ambient air treatment (hereafter
14 termed LCL) or with CO₂ enriched air (1000 µatm pCO₂) for long-term CO₂
15 enriched air treatment (hereafter termed HCL) before dilution. The latter condition
16 was achieved within a CO₂ plant growth chamber (HP1000G-D, Ruihua), in which
17 CO₂ partial pressure was continuously monitored and maintained at 1000 ± 50 µatm.
18 The cultures were diluted every 5 to 7 days to maintain a stable carbonate system
19 within the LCL and HCL treatments. Three separate bottles were maintained during
20 each growth cycle (5 ~ 7 days), and then the triplicate cultures of LCL or HCL
21 treatment were pooled by treatment at the end of the growth cycle, and then diluted
22 to separate bottles with fresh medium equilibrated with the CO₂ levels. This means

1 that there is a single population for each treatment, and triplicate bottles were used to
2 measure growth rate and cell size of each population in the growth cycle. Cells were
3 grown under LCL and HCL conditions for 1035 days (about 1860 generations)
4 before having their traits measured.

5 To investigate short-term OA effects, LCL cells were inoculated into the medium
6 pre-aerated with 1000 μ atm pCO₂ air at the end of the long-term experiment above
7 and grown for another 20 generations (HC treatment) before sampling. LCL cells
8 rather than ancestral cells were used so that the entire experiment could be measured
9 at once to avoid time-block effects, so the LCL population growing in air is the
10 “control” phenotype to which the short- and long-term phenotypes (HC and HCL)
11 are compared. Subsamples for measurement of physiological parameters were
12 always taken in the middle of the light period to avoid diurnal variations (Ragni &
13 Ribera d’Alcalà, 2007).

14

15 Specific growth rate and mean cell size determination

16 Cell concentration and mean cell size were measured by a Coulter Particle Count and
17 Size Analyzer (Z2, Beckman Coulter). Specific growth rate was calculated according
18 the equation: $\mu = (\ln N_1 - \ln N_0) / (t_1 - t_0)$, in which N_1 and N_0 represent cell
19 concentrations at t_1 and t_0 .

20

21 Chlorophyll and carotenoid contents

22 Cells for determination of pigment contents were filtered onto GF/F filters (25 mm,

1 Whatman), and then extracted overnight in absolute methanol at 4 °C in darkness.

2 After centrifugation (5000 g for 10 min), the absorption values of the sample

3 supernatant were analyzed by a UV-VIS Spectrophotometer (DU800, Beckman

4 Coulter). The concentrations of chlorophylls *a* and *c* were calculated according to

5 Ritchie (2006):

6
$$\text{Chl } a \text{ (}\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}\text{)} = 13.2654 \times (A_{665} - A_{750}) - 2.6839 \times (A_{632} - A_{750});$$

7
$$\text{Chl } c \text{ (}\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}\text{)} = -6.0138 \times (A_{665} - A_{750}) + 28.8191 \times (A_{632} - A_{750}).$$

8 Carotenoid concentration was determined by the equation given by Strickland &

9 Parsons (1972):

10
$$\text{Carotenoid (}\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}\text{)} = 7.6 \times ((A_{480} - A_{750}) - 1.49 \times (A_{510} - A_{750})), \text{ where } A_x$$

11 indicates the absorbance at a wavelength *x*. The pigment content per cell was

12 calculated by taking the dilution factor and cell concentration into account.

13

14 Chlorophyll *a* fluorescence parameters

15 In vivo chlorophyll *a* fluorescence parameters of *P. tricornutum* cells were

16 determined using a Xenon-Pulse Amplitude Modulated fluorometer (Xe-PAM, Walz).

17 Maximum and effective photochemical quantum yields were determined according

18 to the equations of Genty *et al.* (1989): maximum photochemical quantum yield,

19
$$\Phi_{\text{PSII max}} = (F_m - F_0) / F_m \text{ for dark-adapted (10 min) samples; effective}$$

20 photochemical quantum yield, $\Phi_{\text{PSII eff}} = (F'_m - F_t) / F'_m = \Delta F / F'_m$ for light-adapted

21 samples, where F_m and F'_m indicate maximum chlorophyll fluorescence of dark and

22 growth-light-adapted samples, respectively; F_0 is the minimum chlorophyll

1 fluorescence of dark-treated cells; and F_t is the steady state chlorophyll fluorescence
2 of light-exposed samples. Non-photochemical quenching (NPQ) was calculated as:
3 $NPQ = (F_m - F'_m) / F'_m$. The saturation pulse was set at $5000 \mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$, and
4 lasted for 0.8 s.

5 Rapid light curves (RLCs) were measured to evaluate relative maximum electron
6 transport rate ($rETR_{\text{max}}$), apparent photon transfer efficiency (α), and light saturation
7 point (I_k). Values of $rETR$ under eight actinic, progressively increasing, light
8 intensities were assessed as previously reported (Wu *et al.*, 2010): $rETR = PAR \times$
9 $\Phi_{\text{PSII eff}} \times 0.5$, where PAR represents the photon flux density of actinic light (μmol
10 $\text{photons m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$), Φ_{PSII} is the effective photochemical quantum yield, and the factor
11 0.5 is based on the assumption that PSII receives half of all absorbed quanta. Before
12 the RLC measurements, samples were incubated at $150 \mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ under
13 20°C (i.e. growth conditions) for 10 min to avoid the influence of quasi-dark light
14 conditions on $rETR$ during manipulation. RLCs were fitted to the following model:
15 $P = PAR / (a \times PAR^2 + b \times PAR + c)$, where P is $rETR$, PAR is photon flux density of
16 actinic light ($\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$), and a , b , c are model parameters. I_k , $rETR_{\text{max}}$,
17 and α were calculated from a , b , and c according to Eilers & Peeters (1988). The
18 relative photoinhibition ratio for $rETR$ was evaluated by the following equation: Inh
19 $(\%) = (rETR_{\text{max}} - rETR_x) / rETR_{\text{max}} \times 100\%$, where $rETR_x$ represents $rETR$ at 1590
20 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ actinic light intensity.

21

22 Photosynthesis and respiration measurements

1 Net photosynthetic oxygen evolution was determined by a Clark-type oxygen
2 electrode (Hansatech) at 20 °C and 150 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$. The temperature was
3 controlled by a refrigerated circulating bath (GDH-0506, Shunma). In the middle of
4 the light period, cells were concentrated by gently filtering ($< 0.02 \text{ MPa}$) them onto a
5 47 mm cellulose acetate membrane (1 μm pore-size, Xinya), and they were then
6 re-suspended into 20 mmol L^{-1} Tris buffered medium whose pH was pre-adjusted by
7 freshly prepared hydrochloric acid and sodium hydroxide to their corresponding
8 culture medium values. Use of Tris-buffer was necessary to maintain the appropriate
9 pH at the higher cell densities used for oxygen evolution experiments. Samples with
10 a known concentration around 2×10^6 cells per milliliter were injected into the
11 oxygen electrode chamber, and were magnetically stirred. Samples for dark
12 respiration determination were filtered and re-suspended in the same way as
13 mentioned above, and oxygen consumption rates were monitored in the dark. Rates
14 of oxygen evolution and consumption were recorded when they became constant.
15 Additionally, photosynthetic rates of LCL and HCL populations were determined by
16 the ^{14}C method (see supporting information for detail) at day 558 and 588.

17

18 The population responses to elevated CO_2
19 Responses to elevated CO_2 of individual parameters for the HC or HCL population
20 were calculated as the fold difference compared to the LCL control. For both
21 population responses, a value of 1 indicates no response, a value < 1 indicates a
22 negative response and a value > 1 indicates a positive response to elevated CO_2 . The

1 value was set to 1 when no significant difference was detected between HC or HCL
2 and LCL populations.

3

4 Statistical analyses

5 Triplicate cultures were used for each population (LCL, HC, and HCL), and the data
6 are expressed as means and standard deviations for each population. One-way
7 ANOVA and Tukey tests were used for analyzing significant differences in
8 parameters among populations (LCL, HC, and HCL) at the end of the experiment
9 with 95% confidence intervals. Significant differences in growth rates and cell sizes
10 between LCL and HCL populations for every measured growth cycle from days 503
11 to 1035 were analyzed using independent samples t tests with 95% confidence
12 intervals. Specific growth rates and cell sizes of both populations for every measured
13 growth cycle and p values of independent t tests are shown in Tables S2 and S3.

14

15 **Results**

16 Growth rate and mean cell size

17 The specific growth rates ranged between $0.96 \pm 0.11 \sim 1.50 \pm 0.01 \text{ d}^{-1}$ in both LCL
18 and HCL populations over the entire experiment. From days 503 to 960, 33 of the 54
19 growth cycles showed no significant differences in growth rate between LCL and
20 HCL populations (Fig. 1a & Table S2, independent t test, $p > 0.05$). No consistent
21 trend was found in the other 21 growth cycles which showed significant differences
22 between populations, with the exceptions of growth rates from days 568 to 588

1 where cells from the HCL population showed a slower growth rate than cells from
2 LCL population over the 20 days (independent t test, $p < 0.05$). However, this trend
3 disappeared from day 589 to day 960. From days 960 to 1035, there was a 10%
4 decrease of growth rate of HCL relative to the LCL population (independent t test, p
5 < 0.05). After having been grown for 1035 days (about 1860 generations), the
6 specific growth rate of cells from the HCL population was 13% lower than cells
7 from the LCL population (Fig. 2a, one-way ANOVA, $p < 0.001$). In contrast, no
8 difference was detected in growth rates between LCL and HC populations (one-way
9 ANOVA, $p = 0.133$).

10 Mean cell sizes (width) ranged from $4.6 \pm 0.02 \sim 5.6 \pm 0.02 \mu\text{m}$ during the entire
11 experiment, and the differences between the two populations varied over time.

12 Between days 503 and 649, cells in 12 of the 20 growth cycles showed statistically
13 similar cell sizes between populations (Fig. 1b & Table S3, independent t test, $p >$
14 0.05), and no consistent trend was found in the other 8 growth cycles. From days 649
15 to 1035, 25 of the 31 growth cycles showed that HCL cells were 3.4% smaller than
16 LCL cells (independent t test, $p < 0.05$). At the end of the entire experiment, HCL
17 cells were 3% smaller than LCL cells (Fig. 2b, one-way ANOVA, $p < 0.001$), and no
18 differences were observed between LCL and HC populations (one-way ANOVA, $p =$
19 0.863).

20

21 Chlorophyll and carotenoid contents

22 After 1860 generations (1035 days) of growth, the chlorophyll *a* content of LCL

1 cells was $0.27 \pm 0.01 \text{ pg cell}^{-1}$, and HCL cells showed a 35% increase, reaching 0.36
2 $\pm 0.05 \text{ pg cell}^{-1}$ (Fig. 2c, one-way ANOVA, $p = 0.021$). Cells from the HC population
3 had a chlorophyll *a* content of $0.22 \pm 0.01 \text{ pg cell}^{-1}$, and no significant difference was
4 found between LCL and HC populations (one-way ANOVA, $p = 0.206$). Similarly,
5 the carotenoid content of HCL cells was 40% higher than that in the LCL population
6 (Fig. 2d, one-way ANOVA, $p = 0.021$). Carotenoid contents of LCL and HC
7 populations were not statistically different. There was no significant difference in
8 chlorophyll *c* content among populations, with a value about $0.04 \pm 0.01 \sim 0.06 \pm$
9 $0.02 \text{ pg cell}^{-1}$.

10
11 In vivo chlorophyll *a* fluorescence parameters
12 $\Phi_{\text{PSII max}}$ values of *P. tricornutum* cells were similar in all populations, with a value of
13 0.672 ± 0.007 (Table 1). There was no difference in effective photochemical
14 quantum yield ($\Phi_{\text{PSII eff}}$) between LCL and HCL cells, while HC cells showed a 3%
15 enhancement of $\Phi_{\text{PSII eff}}$ compared to LCL cells (one-way ANOVA, $p = 0.009$), Φ_{PSII}
16 eff of HC cells reached 0.618 ± 0.003 after illumination with actinic light close to the
17 culture light intensity. As a result, rETR under growth light was stimulated by 3% in
18 the HC population compared with the LCL cells. For NPQ, no significant difference
19 was observed among populations.

20 I_k obtained from RLCs showed no differences among LCL, HCL, and HC
21 populations. Values for rETR_{max} of the HCL cells were 4% lower than those of cells
22 in the LCL and HC populations (one-way ANOVA, $p = 0.025$, $p = 0.036$,

1 respectively). Photoinhibition of *P. tricornutum* cells observed in RLCs was obvious
2 in all three populations. HC and HCL cells showed higher photoinhibition ratios than
3 LCL ones (one-way ANOVA, $p = 0.004$, $p = 0.020$, respectively), though no
4 statistical difference was found between HC and HCL cells. Values for inhibition
5 ratios of LCL, HCL, and HC were $11.4 \pm 0.02\%$, $16.9 \pm 0.01\%$, and $19.2 \pm 0.02\%$,
6 respectively. There were no significant differences in α found among populations.

7

8 Photosynthesis and dark respiration

9 Chlorophyll-normalized dark respiration under the corresponding growth conditions
10 showed differing patterns: the HC population had a 179% enhancement of dark
11 respiration compared to the LCL population (Fig. 3a, one-way ANOVA, $p < 0.001$).
12 However, dark respiration in the HCL population was statistically the same as that of
13 cells from the LCL population (one-way ANOVA, $p = 0.069$). Net photosynthetic
14 oxygen evolution rates per chl *a* were 0.56 ± 0.10 , 0.36 ± 0.06 , and $0.73 \pm 0.07 \mu\text{mol}$
15 $(\mu\text{g chl } a)^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ for LCL, HCL, and HC populations (Fig. 3c), respectively. HCL cells
16 showed 35.7% and 50.7% lower net photosynthetic rate than LCL and HC ones,
17 respectively (one-way ANOVA, $p = 0.049$, $p = 0.003$).

18 When normalized to per cell, the HC population had a 129% increase of dark
19 respiration per cell compared to cells of LCL population (Fig. 3b, one-way ANOVA,
20 $p < 0.001$), and the rate was reduced by 41.9% in the HCL population relative to the
21 LCL population (one-way ANOVA, $p = 0.048$). There were no statistically
22 significant differences for net oxygen evolution per cell among populations (Fig. 3d).

1 Photosynthetic carbon fixation rates were 1.32 ± 0.09 and 1.46 ± 0.10 pg cell⁻¹ h⁻¹
2 at day 558 and 588, respectively (Fig. S1). No significant differences in
3 photosynthetic rate were found between LCL and HCL populations (one-way
4 ANOVA, $p > 0.05$).

5

6 The population responses to elevated CO₂
7 Differences between the HC and HCL populations are summarized in Table 2. The
8 HC population showed no response of growth rate, cell size, chlorophyll *a*, and
9 photosynthetic rate to elevated CO₂. The dark respiration of the HC population
10 showed a positive response to elevated CO₂. In contrast, the HCL population showed
11 a differing pattern: values for growth rate, cell size, dark respiration, and
12 chlorophyll-normalized photosynthesis were all below 1, and the value for
13 chlorophyll content was greater than 1.

14

15 **Discussion**

16 Previous studies have shown that elevated CO₂-induced OA either stimulates (Wu *et*
17 *al.*, 2010; Gao *et al.*, 2012b; Li *et al.*, 2014), or shows no measurable effect on (Li *et*
18 *al.*, 2012a; Wu *et al.*, 2014), growth in *P. tricornutum* under low light (the intensity
19 ranged from 60 ~ 460 μmol photons m⁻² s⁻¹ for constant indoor light; the mean
20 intensity value ranged from 50 ~180 μmol photons m⁻² s⁻¹ for fluctuating outdoor
21 solar radiation) on time scales of under tens of generations. Here, we found that a
22 population of the same strain grown for over a thousand generations in OA

1 conditions had decreased growth, along with decreased cell size and mitochondrial
2 respiration. This demonstrates the potential for a negative long-term response to OA
3 in this species, despite multiple studies showing a positive short-term response. The
4 population grown for > 1800 generations in high CO₂ shows a syndrome outside the
5 range of those reported for this species after short-term exposure to elevated CO₂.
6 For example, in terms of carbon balance, cells under short-term OA tended to
7 increase photosynthetic rate per chl *a* (i.e. a lower input of chlorophyll build-up, but
8 a higher output of photosynthesis per chl *a* than HCL cells); while the population
9 grown under long-term OA reduced carbon expenditure (i.e. decreasing cell size and
10 dark respiration) to remedy the lower photosynthetic rate. While the observation of a
11 single outlier population does not conclusively show that the long-term response
12 differs from the short-term one in this species, it does show that the possible
13 long-term (probably evolutionary) responses fall outside the range of reported
14 short-term responses for this species, confirming both the value of, and need for,
15 further experiments on the evolutionary potential of marine diatoms.

16 Photosynthesis and dark respiration were both enhanced in *Thalassiosira*
17 *pseudonana* (Yang & Gao, 2012) and *P. tricornutum* (Wu *et al.*, 2010) when grown
18 under OA for a short period. However, *T. pseudonana* cultured for tens of
19 generations decreased both photosynthesis and respiration under elevated CO₂ and
20 nitrate limitation (Hennon *et al.*, 2014), while dark respiration of Southern Ocean
21 diatoms remained unaltered or decreased (depending on species) under the
22 habitat-relevant low temperature after two-weeks OA acclimation (Trimborn *et al.*,

2014). OA exposure for less than 30 days usually enhances primary production or dissolved inorganic carbon drawdown by phytoplankton assemblages (Hein & Sand-Jensen, 1997; Riebesell *et al.*, 2007; Egge *et al.*, 2009; Engel *et al.*, 2013), though it decreased primary productivity in the South China Sea (Gao *et al.*, 2012b). Such an enhancement or inhibition caused by OA has been attributed to the saved energy due to down-regulation of CCMs under the elevated pCO₂ (Raven, 1991; Wu *et al.*, 2010; Hopkinson *et al.*, 2011). Nevertheless, no detectable effects of OA on primary production were found in Antarctic phytoplankton assemblages grown under 50% incident solar radiation, with the CCMs being down-regulated (Young *et al.*, 2015). By now, it is clear that species-specificity, alongside interactions between environmental drivers, contributes to variations in the responses of species or communities to OA.

The decreased chlorophyll-normalized photosynthesis of cells in the long-term high CO₂ population was due to their higher chlorophyll *a* content, since their photosynthesis per cell was similar to LCL cells. The higher pigment content may in turn lead to an increased package effect, i.e., self-shading. Moreover, the down-regulation of carbonic anhydrase (CA) and Rubisco expression and activities under high CO₂ conditions (Aizawa & Miyachi, 1986; Tortell *et al.*, 2000; Hopkinson *et al.*, 2013; Losh *et al.*, 2013) may also be involved in depressing photosynthesis in the HCL population. As a result, cells from the HCL population had a lower photosynthetic rate per chl *a* than cells from LCL and HC populations.

Fluctuations of cell size in both populations were observed during the long-term

1 exposure, which might be related to periods of auxospore production by the diatom.
2 While HCL and LCL populations showed similar variation patterns, HCL cells
3 became smaller over 700 days compared to LCL ones, which may be a general trend
4 in phytoplankton exposed to elevated CO₂ over long periods of time (Collins *et al.*,
5 2014). The smaller cell size of the HCL population, which could be attributed to
6 down-regulations of physiological performance (growth, photosynthesis, and
7 respiration), could be a strategy to reduce carbon expenditure. The carbon saved by
8 decreased respiration or decreases in some cellular components may be allocated to
9 other components such as light harvesting systems (indicated by higher pigment
10 contents in the HCL population). Both the generality and underlying mechanisms of
11 these trends require further investigation.

12 In long-term OA incubations of other species, OA has been found to stimulate
13 (Low-Décarie *et al.*, 2013; Tatters *et al.*, 2013), depress (Tatters *et al.*, 2013) or have
14 no detectable effect (Crawford *et al.*, 2011) on the growth rates of diatoms. In
15 addition, other studies show that selection on growth rate in OA environments may
16 change as a population evolves (Jin *et al.*, 2013; Schaum & Collins, 2014). In the
17 present study, after 1860 generations exposure to OA conditions, our population of *P.*
18 *tricornutum* decreased its growth rate. The growth rate of the HCL population did
19 not drop immediately, but was significantly reduced during generations 1733 ~ 1860.
20 The decrease in growth rate of HCL populations might be partly related to decreased
21 respiration, as dark respiration provides ATP and converts carbohydrates to carbon
22 skeletons used for growth (Beardall & Raven, 2001). Short-term OA exposure

1 (within 20 generations) enhanced mitochondrial respiration of diatoms (present
2 study; Wu *et al.*, 2010; Yang & Gao, 2012) due to a higher energy cost for cells to
3 maintain intracellular acid-base homeostasis (Raven, 2011), and may lead to higher
4 (Wu *et al.*, 2010) or unaltered (present study; Yang & Gao, 2012) growth rates
5 compared to cells under ambient CO₂ conditions. After the long-term exposure to
6 OA, physiological performance, such as changes in metabolic pathways (Jin *et al.*,
7 2015), might have reversed to save respiratory carbon loss and energy demand. The
8 possibility of changes in selection on growth rate during long-term exposure to OA
9 seems to be a pattern emerging in several studies across several taxa. At the very
10 least, the overall effect of long-term growth under OA conditions may depend on the
11 length of time spent in OA conditions, and may partially explain the variation in
12 results of published studies.

13 *P. tricornutum* cells from populations cultured under elevated CO₂ for both long-
14 and short-term showed higher relative photoinhibition than cells from the LCL
15 population. This trend was consistent with previous results from the same strain of *P.*
16 *tricornutum* (Wu *et al.*, 2010) and phytoplankton assemblages (Gao *et al.*, 2012b),
17 indicating a higher sensitivity of cells grown under high CO₂ to high light stress. In
18 addition to high light, phytoplankton cells and assemblages tend to be more sensitive
19 to UVR under OA conditions (Sobrino *et al.*, 2008; Gao *et al.*, 2009; Sobrino *et al.*,
20 2009; Gao & Zheng, 2010), though complex interactions between OA and UV have
21 been found in different species (Beardall *et al.*, 2014, and references therein). The
22 down-regulation of photosynthetic machinery (Sobrino *et al.*, 2008) and decrease in

1 antioxidative enzyme activities (Pritchard *et al.*, 2000) under elevated CO₂ may be
2 responsible for higher photoinhibition. The strategies that phytoplankton cells adopt
3 under OA conditions involve sacrificing their tolerance to high light or UVR stress
4 (indicated in present work by a higher photoinhibition ratio), while increasing
5 investment to gain more from optimum light conditions (indicated in the present
6 work by slightly higher rETR and effective photochemical quantum yield under
7 growth light in the HC population).

8 Phytoplankton species are known to exhibit circadian variations in pigment
9 production (Ragni & Ribera d'Alcalà, 2007), photosynthesis, and respiration
10 (Bender *et al.*, 1987; Weger *et al.*, 1989; Chen & Gao, 2004; Halsey & Jones, 2015).

11 While high CO₂ treated cells of the cyanobacterium *Trichodesmium* showed a
12 different diurnal pattern of N₂ fixation from ambient CO₂ cells after short- (Eichner
13 *et al.*, 2014) and long-term CO₂ exposure (Hutchins *et al.*, 2015), similar diurnal
14 patterns of photosynthetic performance were observed in *Trichodesmium* (Kranz *et*
15 *al.*, 2009) and a diatom, *Skeletonema costatum* (Chen & Gao, 2004) when grown
16 under ambient and elevated CO₂ levels (although the absolute values were different).
17 Nevertheless, there is still a possibility that diurnal physiological performance may
18 differ under elevated CO₂ from ambient one over long-term exposures. While
19 caution should be exercised when drawing general conclusions from the present
20 work, here we described the phenotype of a population grown for > 1800 generations
21 under high CO₂ with a phenotype that falls outside the documented range of
22 short-term responses for this species.

1 The long-term consequences of OA on the main marine phytoplankton groups
 2 (cyanobacteria, diatoms, dinoflagelates, and coccolithophores) are beginning to be
 3 studied, and differences in the responses (direction and rate) of the main
 4 phytoplankton groups to OA on a long timescale will lead to shifts in marine
 5 community composition and thus the frequencies of some groups in ecosystems.
 6 Different responses to OA among phytoplankton groups might be caused by diverse
 7 abilities to assimilate dissolved inorganic carbon and adjust energy flow (Mackey *et*
 8 *al.*, 2015). Thus far, the evolutionary responses of coccolithophores and chlorophytes
 9 to elevated CO₂ often go in the opposite direction from the plastic (short-term)
 10 responses, in cases where an evolutionary response is detected (Collins *et al.*, 2014,
 11 and references therein). Cyanobacteria, on the other hand, have thus far shown
 12 evolutionary and plastic responses to OA that are in broadly similar directions of
 13 long- and short-term responses to OA, with some aspects of the high-CO₂-evolved
 14 phenotype being irreversible even after populations were returned to ambient CO₂
 15 levels for 350 generations (Hutchins *et al.*, 2015). In term of diatoms, elevated CO₂
 16 showed little effects on *T. pseudonana* after 100 generations of exposure, though this
 17 was perhaps too short a timescale to produce a measurable evolutionary response
 18 (Crawford *et al.*, 2011). Similarly, freshwater diatoms failed to evoke specific
 19 adaptations to elevated CO₂ after long-term exposure (Low-Décarie *et al.*, 2013). No
 20 phenotypic data other than growth rate are available to characterise patterns on the
 21 direction and magnitude of evolutionary responses in diatoms in this (Low-Décarie
 22 *et al.*, 2013) and another (Tatters *et al.*, 2013) studies. In the present study, our

1 population of *P. tricornutum* grown in OA conditions for 1860 generations showed
2 phenotypic changes in a different direction from those seen in the population that
3 was only exposed to OA conditions for about 20 generations. These phenotypic
4 differences reflect different strategies adopted by the two populations of *P.*
5 *tricornutum* cells. This indicates the potential for long- (probably evolutionary) and
6 short-term (plastic) responses to OA that differ in direction for this species, and is in
7 line with the observation that strategies that appear adaptive over the short term may
8 not be those that evolve by natural selection over longer timescales (Schaum &
9 Collins, 2014; Schaum *et al.*, 2016).

10 However, it is still worth noting that the present study did not measure
11 evolutionary response to OA (which would have been revealed by switching HC
12 selection line cells to the LC condition). Thus we cannot confirm whether the
13 long-term response shown in the present study is a plastic or an adaptive response.
14 Regardless of the attributes of the long-term response though, the present study
15 provides evidence that the response of phytoplankton to OA may depend on the
16 timescale for which they are exposed. The response of long-term OA exposure
17 population in the present study may provide some clues and information for future
18 evolutionary studies on diatom species. Only one population per treatment was used
19 in the present study, which limits our ability to attribute the results to long-term OA
20 exposure since replicates (populations) in one treatment may perform differently
21 over the long-term period. Thus 4 or more independent replicates (populations) per
22 treatment should be applied in future long-term experiments.

1 One interesting note in this study is that the value of many traits in the HCL
2 population depends on when one stops the experiment. As with the fluctuations of
3 growth and cell size over time, other traits may show either the same or different
4 direction changes with those of HC population at different points in the 1860
5 generation timeline. Thus, the possibility of growth rate recovery in the HCL
6 population cannot be reasonably excluded over even longer timescales. Even the
7 physiological traits in the control population changed over time (as shown by growth
8 rate and cell size). Indeed, if fluctuations in phenotype values are a general feature of
9 long-term selection, then we expect that different experiments, each with a single
10 arbitrary end point, might report different phenotypic values. Fluctuations in
11 phenotype (such as competitive ability) have been documented in long-term
12 evolution experiments (Barrick *et al.*, 2009), even where there is genetic evidence of
13 continued adaptation. Thus, while long-term changes to traits need to be taken into
14 account when predicting the responses of primary producers to OA, further studies
15 that investigate and quantify how much these phenotypes are expected to fluctuate
16 are necessary.

17 By culturing *P. tricornutum* in OA conditions for 1860 generations, we found that
18 populations grown under long- and short-term elevated CO₂ differed from each other
19 in growth and photosynthetic performance. The present study thus provides evidence
20 that long- (probably evolutionary) and short-term (plastic) responses to OA may
21 differ in direction for this species. The knowledge obtained from short-term
22 experiments may therefore have limited scope for predicting how phytoplankton will

1 respond to the changing global ocean on a long timescale. Responses of
2 phytoplankton to OA may depend on the timescale for which they are exposed.
3 Differences in the responses (direction and rate) of the main phytoplankton groups to
4 OA and other factors on a long timescale will influence ecosystem composition and
5 primary production.

6

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16

17

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6

7

Figure captions

Fig. 1 Growth rate (a) and cell size (b) ratios between *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* cells from HCL and LCL populations. The dashed lines indicate a ratio of HCL to LCL of 1. LCL, long-term ambient air exposure; HCL, long-term elevated CO₂ exposure. The values are means \pm SD of triplicate cultures (n = 3). Growth rates and cell sizes prior to day 503 were reported in Li (2014) and shown here by randomly selected points from that data set.

Fig. 2 Growth rate (a), mean cell size (b), chlorophyll *a* (c), and carotenoid (d) contents of *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* cells from LCL (black bar), HC (white bar) and HCL (gray bar) populations. LCL, long-term ambient air exposure; HC, short-term elevated CO₂ exposure; HCL, long-term elevated CO₂ exposure. The measurements were determined after 1860 generations (1035 days) for LCL and HCL populations, and 20 generations for the HC population. The values are means \pm SD of triplicate cultures from each population (n = 3). The different letters indicate significant differences among populations at $p < 0.05$.

Fig. 3 Dark respiration (a) and net photosynthesis (c) ($\mu\text{mol O}_2 \mu\text{g chl } a^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$) per chl *a* for *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* cells from LCL (black bar), HC (white bar), and HCL (gray bar) populations. Dark respiration (b), and net photosynthesis (d) on a per cell basis ($\text{fmol cell}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$) for the three populations. LCL, long-term ambient air exposure; HC, short-term elevated CO₂ exposure; HCL, long-term elevated CO₂

1 exposure. The measurements were determined after 1860 generations (1035 days)
2 for LCL and HCL populations, and 20 generations for HC population. The values are
3 means \pm SD of triplicate cultures from each population ($n = 3$). The different letters
4 indicate significant differences among populations at $p < 0.05$.

5

6 **Supporting information captions**

7 Table S1 Carbonate chemistry parameters of LCL, HC, and HCL media. These
8 parameters were calculated from $p\text{CO}_2$ and pH with CO₂SYS software. The different
9 superscript letters indicate significant differences among media at $p < 0.05$.

10

11 Table S2 Specific growth rates of LCL and HCL populations and the significance
12 levels of differences in growth rate between the two populations for each measured
13 growth cycle. Significant differences were analyzed using independent samples t
14 tests, and the degrees of freedom were 4. Bold and underlined values show where
15 there was significant difference in growth rate between the two populations.

16

17 Table S3 Mean cell sizes of LCL and HCL populations and the significance levels of
18 differences in cell size between the two populations for each measured growth cycle.
19 Significant differences were analyzed using independent samples t tests, and the
20 degrees of freedom were 4. Bold and underlined values show where there was
21 significant difference in cell size between two populations.

22

1 Fig. S1 Photosynthetic carbon fixation rates ($\text{pg cell}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$) for *Phaeodactylum*
2 *tricornutum* cells from LCL (black bar) and HCL (gray bar) populations at day 558
3 and 588. LCL, long-term ambient air exposure; HCL, long-term elevated CO_2
4 exposure. The values are means \pm SD of triplicate cultures from each population (n =
5 3). The different letters indicate significant differences between populations at $p <$
6 0.05.

1 Table 1 Maximum ($\Phi_{\text{PSII max}}$) and effective photochemical quantum yields ($\Phi_{\text{PSII eff}}$), non-photochemical quenching (NPQ), apparent photon
2 transfer efficiency (α), relative maximum electron transport rate (rETR_{max}), light saturation point (I_k), and relative photoinhibition ratio for LCL,
3 HC, and HCL populations. LCL, long-term ambient air exposure; HC, short-term elevated CO_2 exposure; HCL, long-term elevated CO_2
4 exposure. The measurements were determined after 1860 generations (1035 days) for LCL and HCL populations, and 20 generations for HC
5 population. The values are means \pm SD of triplicate cultures from each population ($n = 3$). The different superscript letters indicate significant
6 differences among populations at $p < 0.05$.

	$\Phi_{\text{PSII max}}$	$\Phi_{\text{PSII eff}}$	NPQ	α	rETR _{max}	I _k ($\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$)	Relative photoinhibition ratio (%)
LCL	$0.670 \pm 0.011^{\text{a}}$	$0.600 \pm 0.004^{\text{a}}$	$0.044 \pm 0.029^{\text{a}}$	$0.305 \pm 0.013^{\text{a}}$	$122.5 \pm 2.3^{\text{a}}$	$402.8 \pm 23.5^{\text{a}}$	$11.4 \pm 1.9^{\text{a}}$
HC	$0.672 \pm 0.005^{\text{a}}$	$0.618 \pm 0.002^{\text{b}}$	$0.048 \pm 0.008^{\text{a}}$	$0.331 \pm 0.015^{\text{a}}$	$122.1 \pm 0.5^{\text{a}}$	$369.3 \pm 17.2^{\text{a}}$	$16.9 \pm 1.3^{\text{b}}$
HCL	$0.672 \pm 0.002^{\text{a}}$	$0.594 \pm 0.006^{\text{a}}$	$0.057 \pm 0.006^{\text{a}}$	$0.302 \pm 0.006^{\text{a}}$	$117.6 \pm 1.6^{\text{b}}$	$390.9 \pm 13.8^{\text{a}}$	$19.2 \pm 2.0^{\text{b}}$

1

1 Table 2 The population responses of representative parameters to elevated CO₂. HC, short-term elevated CO₂ exposure; HCL, long-term elevated
 2 CO₂ exposure. The values are calculated from the means of parameters from each population, and expressed as the fold difference compared to
 3 the LCL control.

4

	Growth rate	Cell size	Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	Net photosynthesis per chl <i>a</i>	Dark respiration per chl <i>a</i>	Net photosynthesis per cell	Dark respiration per cell
HC population	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.79	1.00	2.29
HCL population	0.87	0.96	1.33	0.64	1.00	1.00	0.58

5

1 Supporting Information

2 Methods

3 Photosynthetic carbon fixation

4 Sample (same density as culture) for determination of photosynthetic carbon fixation
5 rate was inoculated with 5 $\mu\text{Ci NaH}^{14}\text{CO}_3$ (ICN Radiochemicals). Samples were then
6 incubated under growth conditions ($150 \mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, 20°C) for 1 h. After
7 the incubation, cells were gently filtered onto GF/F filters (25mm, Whatman) and the
8 filters were placed into scintillation vials. Filters were exposed to hydrochloric acid
9 fumes overnight, and dried at 50°C for 6 h. Scintillation cocktail was added to the
10 vials before assimilated radiocarbon was counted by a liquid scintillation counter (Tri-
11 Carb 2800TR, PerkinElmer).

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1 Table S1 Carbonate chemistry parameters of LCL, HC, and HCL media. These parameters were calculated from pCO₂ and pH with CO₂SYS
 2 software. The different superscript letters indicate significant differences among media at p < 0.05.

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Population	pCO ₂	pH _T	DIC	HCO ₃ ⁻	CO ₃ ²⁻	CO ₂	Total Alkalinity
	(μatm)		(μmol kg ⁻¹)	(μmol kg ⁻¹)	(μmol kg ⁻¹)	(μmol kg ⁻¹)	(μmol kg ⁻¹)
LCL	413±12 ^a	8.02±0.02 ^a	1943±74 ^a	1750±63 ^a	179±12 ^a	13.4±0.4 ^a	2206±88 ^a
HC	997±15 ^b	7.70±0.01 ^b	2185±30 ^b	2050±27 ^b	102±4 ^b	32.2±0.5 ^b	2311±36 ^a
HCL	1013±12 ^b	7.70±0.01 ^b	2187±58 ^b	2054±53 ^b	101±5 ^b	32.7±0.3 ^b	2310±64 ^a

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1 Table S2 Specific growth rates of LCL and HCL populations and the significance
2 levels of differences in growth rate between the two populations for each measured
3 growth cycle. Significant differences were analyzed using independent samples t tests,
4 and the degrees of freedom were 4. Bold and underlined values show where there was
5 significant difference in growth rate between the two populations.

6

Growth cycle	Specific growth rate		p value
	LCL	HCL	
1	1.32 ± 0.02	1.33 ± 0.01	0.571
2	1.33 ± 0.03	1.30 ± 0.02	0.281
3	1.27 ± 0.04	1.34 ± 0.01	0.060
4	1.30 ± 0.01	1.32 ± 0.01	0.069
5	1.39 ± 0.01	1.39 ± 0.03	0.949
6	1.34 ± 0.02	1.25 ± 0.01	<u>0.002</u>
7	1.26 ± 0.01	1.31 ± 0.01	<u>0.005</u>
8	1.31 ± 0.01	1.30 ± 0.01	0.288
9	1.34 ± 0.01	1.35 ± 0.02	0.656
10	1.32 ± 0.01	1.23 ± 0.01	< <u>0.001</u>
11	1.31 ± 0.01	1.27 ± 0.02	<u>0.018</u>
12	1.37 ± 0.01	1.32 ± 0.01	< <u>0.001</u>
13	1.28 ± 0.01	1.30 ± 0.02	0.103
14	1.31 ± 0.01	1.27 ± 0.01	<u>0.017</u>
15	1.34 ± 0.01	1.31 ± 0.01	<u>0.005</u>
16	1.32 ± 0.01	1.28 ± 0.01	< <u>0.001</u>

17	1.34 ± 0.01	1.29 ± 0.01	$< \underline{\underline{0.001}}$
18	1.33 ± 0.01	1.26 ± 0.01	$< \underline{\underline{0.001}}$
19	1.30 ± 0.01	1.30 ± 0.01	0.463
20	1.25 ± 0.01	1.23 ± 0.01	0.054
21	1.23 ± 0.02	1.28 ± 0.02	$\underline{\underline{0.036}}$
22	1.31 ± 0.03	1.35 ± 0.01	0.141
23	1.31 ± 0.03	1.30 ± 0.01	0.625
24	0.99 ± 0.01	1.12 ± 0.01	$< \underline{\underline{0.001}}$
25	1.39 ± 0.01	1.42 ± 0.01	0.089
26	1.21 ± 0.01	1.21 ± 0.02	0.935
27	1.28 ± 0.03	1.33 ± 0.02	0.078
28	1.31 ± 0.03	1.32 ± 0.03	0.568
29	1.30 ± 0.01	1.31 ± 0.02	0.384
30	1.31 ± 0.01	1.29 ± 0.03	0.325
31	1.29 ± 0.03	1.34 ± 0.02	0.050
32	1.25 ± 0.02	1.26 ± 0.03	0.503
33	1.22 ± 0.01	1.22 ± 0.01	0.826
34	1.23 ± 0.02	1.23 ± 0.02	0.928
35	1.28 ± 0.01	1.27 ± 0.02	0.824
36	1.27 ± 0.02	1.25 ± 0.02	0.280
37	1.27 ± 0.01	1.23 ± 0.01	$< \underline{\underline{0.001}}$
38	1.26 ± 0.01	1.28 ± 0.03	0.337
39	1.34 ± 0.01	1.32 ± 0.01	$\underline{\underline{0.036}}$
40	1.47 ± 0.01	1.50 ± 0.01	$\underline{\underline{0.013}}$
41	1.32 ± 0.02	1.32 ± 0.03	0.965

42	1.38 ± 0.02	1.24 ± 0.01	$< \underline{\underline{0.001}}$
43	1.25 ± 0.02	1.23 ± 0.01	0.287
44	1.33 ± 0.01	1.38 ± 0.01	$\underline{\underline{0.002}}$
45	1.36 ± 0.01	1.32 ± 0.01	$\underline{\underline{0.005}}$
46	1.08 ± 0.03	0.98 ± 0.03	$\underline{\underline{0.009}}$
47	1.32 ± 0.02	1.33 ± 0.01	0.497
48	1.24 ± 0.02	1.28 ± 0.03	0.162
49	1.31 ± 0.02	1.18 ± 0.03	$\underline{\underline{0.006}}$
50	1.26 ± 0.02	1.28 ± 0.02	0.187
51	1.33 ± 0.02	1.39 ± 0.03	$\underline{\underline{0.041}}$
52	1.32 ± 0.03	1.30 ± 0.02	0.390
53	1.21 ± 0.05	1.28 ± 0.04	0.142
54	1.25 ± 0.03	1.27 ± 0.02	0.333
55	1.27 ± 0.01	1.08 ± 0.01	$< \underline{\underline{0.001}}$
56	1.25 ± 0.01	1.14 ± 0.01	$< \underline{\underline{0.001}}$
57	1.29 ± 0.02	1.21 ± 0.01	$\underline{\underline{0.006}}$
58	1.12 ± 0.01	1.06 ± 0.05	$\underline{\underline{0.012}}$
59	1.40 ± 0.01	1.28 ± 0.01	$< \underline{\underline{0.001}}$
60	1.26 ± 0.02	1.21 ± 0.02	$\underline{\underline{0.016}}$
61	1.31 ± 0.03	1.22 ± 0.01	$\underline{\underline{0.012}}$
62	1.37 ± 0.01	1.19 ± 0.01	$< \underline{\underline{0.001}}$
63	1.35 ± 0.02	1.20 ± 0.01	$< \underline{\underline{0.001}}$
64	1.23 ± 0.05	0.96 ± 0.11	$\underline{\underline{0.017}}$

1 Table S3 Mean cell sizes of LCL and HCL populations and the significance levels of
2 differences in cell size between the two populations for each measured growth cycle.
3 Significant differences were analyzed using independent samples t tests, and the
4 degrees of freedom were 4. Bold and underlined values show where there was
5 significant difference in cell size between two populations.

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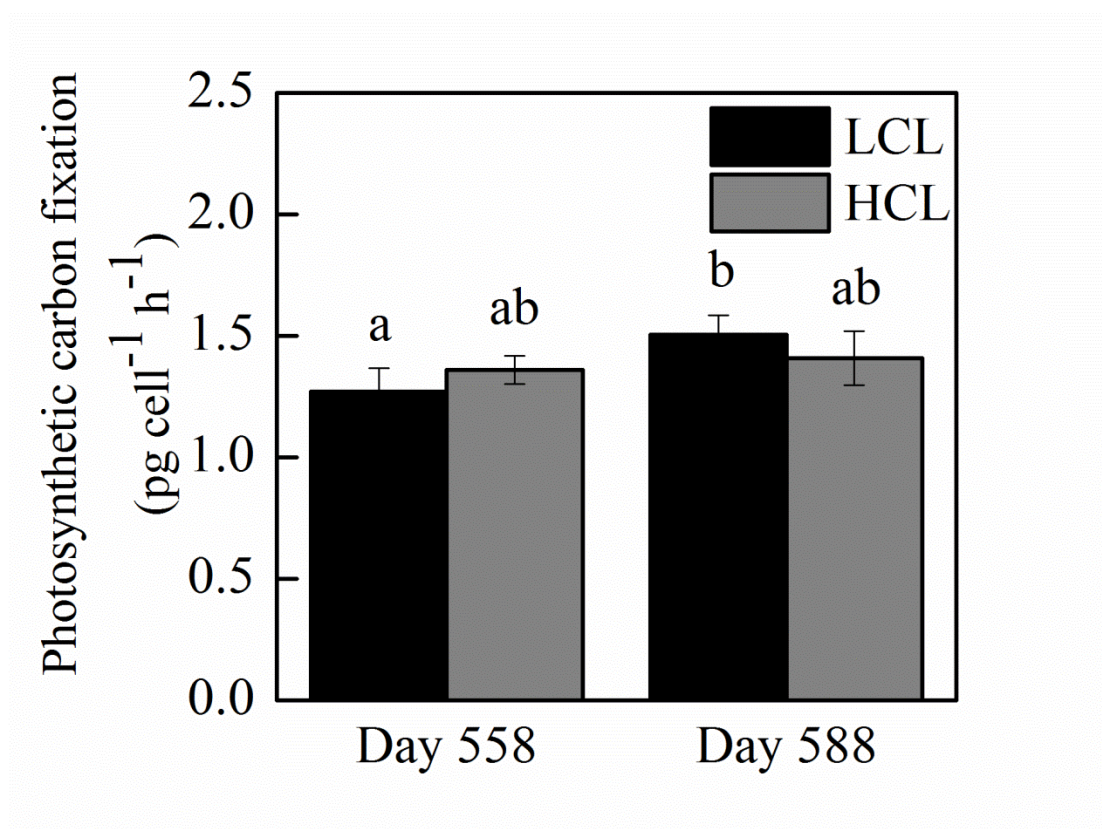
Growth cycle	Mean cell size		p value
	LCL	HCL	
1	5.04 ± 0.02	5.12 ± 0.08	0.205
2	4.77 ± 0.12	5.08 ± 0.01	<u>0.010</u>
3	5.08 ± 0.11	5.20 ± 0.22	0.129
4	4.96 ± 0.03	5.14 ± 0.11	0.054
5	5.02 ± 0.02	5.10 ± 0.07	0.124
6	4.62 ± 0.11	5.06 ± 0.02	<u>0.002</u>
7	4.96 ± 0.07	4.98 ± 0.02	0.657
8	4.91 ± 0.01	5.02 ± 0.04	<u>0.005</u>
9	5.25 ± 0.06	5.18 ± 0.03	0.195
10	5.08 ± 0.04	5.14 ± 0.05	0.175
11	5.03 ± 0.06	4.97 ± 0.01	0.206
12	5.23 ± 0.04	5.14 ± 0.02	<u>0.020</u>
13	5.00 ± 0.04	5.06 ± 0.02	0.056
14	5.17 ± 0.07	5.14 ± 0.02	0.531
15	5.12 ± 0.05	5.05 ± 0.02	0.107
16	5.10 ± 0.02	4.99 ± 0.01	<u>0.001</u>

17	5.15 ± 0.09	5.11 ± 0.03	0.487
18	5.23 ± 0.05	5.13 ± 0.01	<u>0.031</u>
19	5.45 ± 0.03	5.38 ± 0.01	<u>0.033</u>
20	5.29 ± 0.01	5.34 ± 0.01	<u>0.006</u>
21	5.38 ± 0.04	5.27 ± 0.01	<u>0.008</u>
22	5.46 ± 0.04	5.28 ± 0.01	<u>0.002</u>
23	5.39 ± 0.06	5.30 ± 0.02	0.059
24	5.59 ± 0.03	5.61 ± 0.02	0.284
25	5.50 ± 0.02	5.41 ± 0.02	<u>0.002</u>
26	5.38 ± 0.02	5.26 ± 0.01	< <u>0.001</u>
27	5.32 ± 0.08	5.24 ± 0.04	0.164
28	5.18 ± 0.18	5.11 ± 0.04	0.537
29	5.25 ± 0.03	5.11 ± 0.03	<u>0.007</u>
30	5.15 ± 0.01	5.03 ± 0.03	<u>0.002</u>
31	5.11 ± 0.01	5.03 ± 0.02	<u>0.004</u>
32	5.11 ± 0.06	5.01 ± 0.06	0.111
33	5.34 ± 0.17	5.04 ± 0.02	<u>0.039</u>
34	5.18 ± 0.05	5.05 ± 0.01	<u>0.009</u>
35	5.28 ± 0.02	5.20 ± 0.02	<u>0.011</u>
36	5.35 ± 0.03	5.21 ± 0.01	<u>0.002</u>
37	5.39 ± 0.05	5.18 ± 0.04	<u>0.006</u>
38	5.50 ± 0.03	5.28 ± 0.02	<u>0.001</u>
39	5.44 ± 0.05	5.33 ± 0.09	0.108
40	5.60 ± 0.04	5.37 ± 0.04	<u>0.002</u>
41	5.02 ± 0.06	4.84 ± 0.03	<u>0.012</u>

42	5.28 ± 0.02	4.90 ± 0.01	< <u>0.001</u>
43	5.12 ± 0.04	4.94 ± 0.02	<u>0.001</u>
44	5.22 ± 0.07	5.05 ± 0.09	<u>0.048</u>
45	5.07 ± 0.03	4.95 ± 0.02	<u>0.003</u>
46	4.82 ± 0.05	4.61 ± 0.02	<u>0.003</u>
47	5.02 ± 0.09	4.81 ± 0.04	<u>0.022</u>
48	5.16 ± 0.04	4.79 ± 0.02	< <u>0.001</u>
49	4.84 ± 0.03	4.66 ± 0.04	<u>0.002</u>
50	4.87 ± 0.01	4.70 ± 0.04	<u>0.002</u>
51	4.90 ± 0.03	4.77 ± 0.03	<u>0.009</u>

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1 Fig. S1 Photosynthetic carbon fixation rates ($\text{pg cell}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$) for *Phaeodactylum*
2 *tricornutum* cells from LCL (black bar) and HCL (gray bar) populations at day 558
3 and 588. LCL, long-term ambient air exposure; HCL, long-term elevated CO_2
4 exposure. The values are means \pm SD of triplicate cultures from each population (n =
5 3). The different letters indicate significant differences between populations at $p <$
6 0.05.

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